[Translation]

Welfare Schemes in Uttar Pradesh

3458. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some welfare schemes of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Union Government for approval/clearance;

(b) if so, the schematic details thereof, as on date and the date since when these schemes are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in their clearance;

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which these schemes are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir, there are some proposals pending in different Divisions of this Ministry and are at various stages of consideration. Some of them require clarifications from the Government of Uttar Pradesh before final approval.

[English]

Delicensing of Sugar Industry

3459. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to decontrol sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on sugarcane production, its availability to mills, crushing by sugar mills, payment of full prices to the sugarcane producers at the time of purchase, sale of sugar at fair prices etc.;

(d) whether there is also a proposal for decanalisation of the sugar industry;

(e) if so, whether the prices of sugar are likely to go up; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The policy of partial control of sugar, is continuing at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The proposal for decanalisation of sugar exports is under examination.

(e) and (f). In view of the surplus availability of sugar, an upward spurt in sugar prices is unlikely.

Channel for Adults

3460. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan is going to start a channel earmarked for adults;

(b) if so, the details thereof and features of the programmes proposed to be telecast on the channel;

(c) whether these programmes are likely to be subjected to precensorship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its effect on children?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Mobile Telephone Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

3461. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide mobile phone service in the various cities of Andhra Pradesh and particularly in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(c) whether basic infrastructures have been installed for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely cost of a cellular phone connections and the cost of a call per minute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Govt. has

licensed the two Indian companies namely, M/s. Tara Communication and M/s. J.T. Mobiles Ltd. to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Andhra Pradesh. As per the licence agreeement entered with the companies, the companies have to provide the service in atleast 10% of the District Headquarters within the first year. The service is likely to start in Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad in the financial year 1996-97.

(c) and (d). As per the licence agreement the licensee is responsible for the provision of all infrastructure required for the service.

(e) The ceiling tariff to be charged from the subscribers of the service are enclosed as *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Ceiling Tariff for the four Metros

Tariff

1. Monthly Rental for the Service - Rs. 156/- per month
2. Security Deposit - Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges - Rs. 1200/-
4. Call Charges :—

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber:

Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscribers:

Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff:

5.1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2. The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

Radio Transmitters on Border Areas

3462. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border districts of Punjab and other states are affected by the neighbouring countries through their high power transmission centre as reported in the 'Times of India' dated July 29, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken at diplomatic level for checking this anti India propaganda by the Pakistan radio?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Lahore Station of Pakistan Radio among other anti-India programmes, broadcasts a daily programme entitled "Punjabi Darbar" which presents distorted information about Punjab. To counter the Pak propaganda, number of programmes are broadcast from AIR, Jalandhar and in Punjabi service of the External Services of AIR, presenting the factual position of happenings and developments in Punjab.

(c) Government have, in the course of diplomatic interactions with other countries, apprised them of Pakistan's propaganda against India and their support to terrorism. There is widespread International recognition of Pakistan's interference in India's internal affairs.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Post Offices

3463. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have postponed the programme for computerisation of the Post Offices at a large scale for the time being;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the additional amount earned by the Government due to expansion of postal services in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the work of computerisation of the post offices is proposed to be started;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a).